

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 19, 2000

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 19, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for 5 minutes.

LOS ALAMOS SECURITY PROBLEM

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the Los Alamos security problem is not a trivial matter. An official familiar with the investigation was quoted last weekend as having said hopefully the drives never left the secured area; if we believe this version, we will then be convinced that Santa Claus is a viable being and, finally, to complete the hat trick, the Tooth Fairy will trot across the stage.

If, after this, we remain skeptical, we would be well advised, Madam Speaker, to apply the admonishing lyrics of an old Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs bluegrass tune entitled, "I am going to sleep with one eye open from now on."

Obviously, those charged with guarding the hen house at Los Alamos kept no eyes open, and the fox was free to roam at will. Corrective action must be forthcoming to resolve this inexcusable breach of security.

The potential detriment imposed upon our country may be irreparable. I sit as a Member of no House committee with direct jurisdiction over the Department of Energy; however, I have

been more than a casual observer of the shoddy security measures at our Nation's nuclear lab.

I have previously crossed swords with the Department of Energy. Some recent years ago that Department was directed by a Secretary who enjoyed taking frequent trips, international and domestic, subsidized, of course, by taxpayers.

She insisted as well that she be surrounded by attendants who made up her road show entourage who traveled as well at taxpayers expense. I took her to task for this excessive travel, and several DOE employees and officials expressed thanks for my concern because their Department was being embarrassed.

Embarrassment is being felt yet again, but I distinguish the abusive travel practices with the present Los Alamos problem. The former involved a Secretary whose attitude was one of indifferent disregard to prudent management practices. The Los Alamos exposure involves national security.

Madam Speaker, even though there is no Cold War, many Americans, some who sat in this very Chamber, believe that since there is no Cold War, there is therefore no threat. There are, indeed, threats, Madam Speaker; and the Los Alamos problem could very well be nurturing a significant one. Let us clean up this mess before it is too late.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: In recent days, we have honored fatherhood in this Nation, O God. In celebrating Fathers' Day, we have asked You to bless all fathers.

With their spouses, may they earn the love and respect of their children and be true guides of moral living and witness noble patriotism to another generation.

With faith in You as the source of life and all true authority in Heaven and on Earth, we dare to call You: "Abba," "Father." Shower upon us all Your loving care and understanding forgiveness.

In a special way we pray for all the Members of this House who are fathers. Bind their families in love. Protect them wherever they may be. Grant that peace and prosperity in this Nation may provide security to all who seek to be fathers in the future. Born of fathers, we give You thanks and praise for the life we have received by these men. All of us are Your children now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE AT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in poll after poll, the American people have made it clear that the number one issue on their minds is education.

Americans want to make sure their children are well prepared for tomorrow. Americans want to know that their education tax dollars are being spent on their children, not on bureaucracies or needless studies.

Why is it, then, that this administration's Education Department got a D-minus from Ernst and Young, a private auditing firm? If a private company had gotten that rating, the Securities and Exchange Commission would suspend their stock from trading.

Why is it that the Department of Education's own employees are bilking the Department and sticking the taxpayers with the tab?

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.